

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 18 with the following paragraph:

~~Figure 3a~~ Figure 3 depicts a portion of the P6 region of the Group I ribozyme (SEQ ID NOs: 10 and 12) joined to the anti-theophylline aptamer (SEQ ID NO: 11) by a short randomized region to generate a pool of aptazymes of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 1 with the following paragraph:

~~Figure 3a~~ Figure 3 depicts the critical residues of the P6 region of the Group I ribozyme joined to the anti-theophylline aptamer by a short randomized region to generate a pool of aptazymes of the present invention. The residues shown in bold in ~~Fig. 3a~~ Fig. 3 are the P6 critical residues, and the faded residues shown in ~~Fig. 3a~~ Fig. 3 are the anti-theophylline aptamer.